

## Safe Driving

### Power assistance:

When the engine is not running, both the service brake and the steering are without power assistance. Under these circumstances, a much greater effort is necessary to steer or stop the vehicle.

### Tires:

Do not allow your tires to wear down too far. With less than approx. 3 mm/1/8 in of tread, the antiskid properties on a wet road fall off sharply.

Depending upon the weather and/or road pavement, the traction varies widely.

Specified tire pressures must be maintained. This applies particularly if the tires are subjected to high loads (e.g. high speeds, heavy loads, high and low ambient temperatures).

### Aquaplaning:

Depending on the depth of the water layer on the road, aquaplaning may occur, even at low speeds. Avoid

track grooves in the road and apply brakes cautiously in the rain.

### Tire friction:

A given speed at which a vehicle driven on dry roads can still be fully controlled must be reduced when the same vehicle is to be driven safely on a wet or icy road.

You should pay particular attention to the condition of the road as soon as the prevailing temperatures fall close to the freezing point.

If ice has formed on the road, tire traction will be substantially reduced. Under such weather conditions, drive, steer, accelerate and brake particularly carefully.

We recommend M + S radial-ply tires for the cold season. On packed snow, they can reduce your stopping distance as compared with summer tires. Stopping distance, however, is nevertheless considerably greater than when the road is wet or dry.

### Brakes:

When driving down long and steep declines, relieve the brakes by shifting into "S" or "L". This prevents overheating of the brakes and reduces brake pad wear.

After hard braking it is advisable to drive on for some time so the air stream will cool down the brakes faster.

When driving in heavy rain for some time without applying the brakes, the first braking action may be somewhat reduced and increased pedal pressure may be necessary. For this reason, stay further away from a vehicle in front.

The condition of the parking brake system is checked each time the car is in the shop for maintenance.

Between maintenance checks it is a good practice to apply the parking brake once or twice while driving at approximately 50 km/h/30 mph on a dry road. Apply brake lightly until a slight drag on the wheels is felt. Keep

applying brakes for about 10 seconds while pulling release knob out, then release parking brake completely. This practice will keep the parking brake at maximum efficiency.

**Warning:**

The stop lamps will not come on when applying the parking brake only. Apply parking brake only when road behind vehicle is clear of traffic.

All checks and maintenance work on the brake system should be carried out by a MERCEDES-BENZ dealer.

If the parking brake is released and the brake warning lamp in the instrument cluster comes on, the brake fluid level in the reservoir is too low.

Brake pad wear or a leak in the system may be the reason for low brake fluid in the reservoir.

Have the brake system inspected at an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer without delay.

Install only brake pads recommended by us. If other than recommended brake pads are installed, the braking properties of the vehicle can be affected to an extent that the safety is substantially impaired.

### **Brake Pad Wear Indicator Lamp**

The brake pad wear indicator lamp in the instrument cluster stays on when the key in the steering lock is turned to position "2" and it must go out when the engine is running. If the indicator lamp lights up during braking, this shows that the front wheel brake pads are worn.

Have the brake system checked at an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer as soon as possible.

### **Brake Fluid**

Brake fluid should be changed once a year, preferably in spring.

Only use brake fluid recommended by us. For further information, refer to "Fuels, Coolants, Lubricants, etc."

The low brake fluid indicator lamp will come on if insufficient brake fluid is in the reservoir. (The key must be in steering lock position "2", and the parking brake released.)

When the minimum mark on the reservoir is reached, have the system checked (brake lining thickness, leaks).

### **Charge Indicator Lamp**

Should the charge indicator lamp fail to come on prior to starting when the key is in steering lock position "2" or should it fail to go out after starting or during operation, this indicates a fault which must be repaired at an authorized MERCEDES-BENZ dealer as soon as possible.

When the charging indicator lamp glows while the engine is running, the V-belts may be loose or broken (which also makes the water pump inoperative). This may cause overheating and damage to the engine. In this case the V-belts must be tightened or replaced at once.

### **Fuel Reserve Warning Lamp**

The fuel reserve warning lamp will come on when the key in the steering lock is turned to position "2", and will go out after the engine is running.

If the warning lamp stays on after the engine starts, or comes on while driving, it indicates that the fuel level is down to the reserve quantity.